

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of conducting a wagering game on a gaming machine, the method comprising:

receiving a single wager from a player to purchase a series of plays of a basic portion of the game, the single wager being allocated to the entire series of plays and not being associated with any one of the series of plays, the single wager being an amount that is independent of the player playing the wagering game such that different players pay the same amount;

in response to the single wager, providing the player with the series of plays of the basic portion of the wagering game;

randomly generating at least one outcome of each play in the series of plays of the basic portion of the wagering game; and

providing an accumulation feature that accumulates an element of the game over a plurality of the plays in the series of plays of the basic portion of the wagering game, the accumulation feature is reset to include no accumulated elements prior to each purchased series of plays.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the basic portion is selected from a group consisting of slots, poker, keno, bingo, blackjack, and roulette.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the accumulation feature is triggered by a special outcome in the basic portion.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the accumulated element is a position on a trail, ladder, or meter.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the position identifies a credit amount, a multiplier, a number of free plays of the basic portion, a bonus round, or movement to another position on the trail, the ladder, or the meter.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the accumulated element is a collected object.
7. (Original) The method of claim 6, further including triggering a bonus in response to collection of a predetermined number of the object during the series of plays.
8. (Canceled)
9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein each play includes at least one respective random event that is independent of other plays in the series.
10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the game includes the basic portion and a bonus feature triggered by a special outcome in the basic portion, the at least one random event being associated with the basic portion.
11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein each play includes at least one random event that is interdependent of one or more other plays in the series.
12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the game includes the basic portion and a bonus feature triggered by a special outcome in the basic portion, the at least one random event being associated with the bonus feature.
13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further including redeeming, prior to the completion of the series of plays, the accumulated element for a bonus in response to a predetermined event in the series of plays, and after the bonus is complete, returning to the series of plays of the basic portion of the wagering game until completion.
14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the predetermined event corresponds to collection of a predetermined number of the accumulated element.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the predetermined event corresponds to a certain position of the element on a trail, ladder, or meter.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the basic portion includes a slot game having a plurality of symbol-bearing reels that, during each play in the series, are spun and stopped to place symbols on the reels in visual association with a display area.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the basic portion includes a draw poker game having a plurality of playing cards that, during each play in the series, are dealt from a deck and selectively replaced with substitute cards from the deck.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) A method of conducting a wagering game on a gaming machine, the method comprising:

receiving a wager from a player;

randomly selecting an outcome from a plurality of possible outcomes, the plurality of possible outcomes including a plurality of winning outcomes defined by a pay table, each of the winning outcomes in the pay table being a winning symbol combination including a plurality of symbols and being directly associated with respective non-credit-based awards; and

providing the associated non-credit based award if the selected outcome is one of the winning outcomes;

wherein the non-credit-based awards include a number of movements of a space identifier along a trail, the number of movements varying with different ones of the winning symbol combinations.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the trail includes a plurality of spaces, at least some of the spaces being associated with respective credit-based awards.

22. (Previously Presented) A method of conducting a wagering game on a gaming machine, the method comprising:

receiving a wager from a player;

randomly selecting an outcome from a plurality of possible outcomes, the plurality of possible outcomes including a plurality of winning outcomes defined by a pay table, the winning outcomes in the pay table being directly associated with respective non-credit-based awards; and

providing the associated non-credit-based award if the selected outcome is one of the winning outcomes;

wherein the non-credit-based awards include a number of free plays of the game, the number of free plays varying with different ones of the winning outcomes.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) A gaming machine for conducting a wagering game comprising:

means for receiving a single wager from a player to purchase a series of plays of a basic portion of the game, the single wager being allocated to the entire series of plays and not being associated with any one of the series of plays, the single wager being an amount that is independent of the players playing the wagering game;

means, responsive to the single wager, for providing the player with the series of plays of the basic portion of the wagering game;

means for randomly generating at least one outcome for each play of the basic portion of the wagering game; and

~~means for providing~~ an accumulation feature that accumulates an element of the game over a plurality of the plays in the series of plays of the basic portion of the wagering game, the accumulation feature is reset to include no accumulated elements prior to each purchased series of plays, the accumulation feature (i)

permitting the player to play a bonus game before completing the series of plays of the basic portion of the wagering game in response to accumulation of a predetermined number of accumulated elements and (ii) returning to the basic portion of the game to continue playing the series of plays associated with the single wager until all the plays have been completed.

26. (Previously Presented) The machine of claim 25, wherein the basic portion is selected from a group consisting of slots, poker, keno, bingo, blackjack, and roulette.
27. (Previously Presented) The machine of claim 26, wherein the accumulation feature is triggered by a special outcome in the basic portion.
28. (Original) The machine of claim 25, wherein the accumulated element is a position on a trail, ladder, or meter.
29. (Previously Presented) The machine of claim 28, wherein the position identifies a credit amount, a multiplier, a number of free plays of the basic portion, a bonus round, or movement to another position on the trail, the ladder, or the meter.
30. (Original) The machine of claim 25, wherein the accumulated element is a collected object.
31. (Currently Amended) The machine of claim 30, further including means for triggering a the bonus game in response to collection of a predetermined number of the object during the series of plays.
32. (Canceled)
33. (Original) The machine of claim 25, wherein each play includes at least one respective random event that is independent of other plays in the series.

34. (Canceled)

35. (Original) The machine of claim 25, wherein each play includes at least one random event that is interdependent of one or more other plays in the series.

36. (Canceled)

37. (Currently Amended) The machine of claim 25, further including means for redeeming the accumulated element for a the bonus game in response to a predetermined event in the game.

38. (Original) The machine of claim 37, wherein the predetermined event corresponds to collection of a predetermined number of the element.

39. (Original) The machine of claim 37, wherein the predetermined event corresponds to a certain position of the element on a trail, ladder, or meter.

40. (Canceled)

41. (Previously Presented) The machine of claim 25, wherein the basic portion includes a slot game having a plurality of symbol-bearing reels that, during each play in the series, are spun and stopped to place symbols on the reels in visual association with a display area.

42. (Previously Presented) The machine of claim 25, wherein the basic portion includes a draw poker game having a plurality of playing cards that, during each play in the series, are dealt from a deck and selectively replaced with substitute cards from the deck.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further including
redeeming the accumulated element for a bonus event in response to a predetermined event before completing the series of plays;

playing the bonus event; and
continuing the series of plays.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the predetermined event corresponds to collection of a predetermined number of the accumulated element.